

patriotism was to divide him, when the Boer War came, as when the Great War came, from many of his Socialist colleagues, it was an effective lever to bring him into active administrative work in London. No note is more definite, in the articles collected in that lively little volume, *The London Programme*, than this of pride in and for his native city. So, he says,

"the reform of London government is no mere matter of cleaner streets and better drains. The greatest need of our Metropolis is the growth among its citizens of a greater sense of common life. That 'Municipal Patriotism' which once marked the free cities of Italy, and which is already to be found in our provincial towns, can, perhaps, best be developed in London by a steady extension of the sphere of civic as compared with individual action."

The first elections for London's new Council took place in the spring of 1889. He was out of England during the preceding months, visiting the United States. He had for two years saved up his leave at the Colonial Office, so as, now, to have a clear three months at his disposal. In the autumn of 1888, accordingly, he, with his friend and Fabian colleague, Edward Pease, sailed across the Atlantic on a slow boat. They played chess, and he read everything in the ship's library, including purely nautical works. When they got to America, he saw a great deal, and established many contacts in New York, Chicago, Cleveland and elsewhere. But he did not get home until the opening of 1889, and then, according to

himself, "took no part in the election " "No
part" seems
to be a slight exaggeration on the side of
humility, as
a matter of fact, he admits that, so soon as
he got back
to London, he did "something that turned
out to be
important " In January 1889, he got the
Fabian Society
to "importune" (his own word) all candidates to
commit
themselves to reforms in London government
along the